

- UNION COUNTY -
County Court

JOHN J. HOWARD, County Judge
MIKE CALDWELL, Commissioner
MARIE C. LESTER, Commissioner

1100 "L" Avenue

La Grande, Oregon 97850

Phone: (503) 963-1001

July 21, 1987

City of Elgin
Mayor Jean Cowan
P.O. Box 128
Elgin, Oregon 97827

Dear Mayor Cowan:

The Union County Court and La Grande City Council have met and agreed that there is a need to appoint a task force to review the recent law enforcement merger.

The mission of the task force is to evaluate, provide public education and media communication on the law enforcement merger.

The evaluation will include the following:

1. Meet with the La Grande City Council and County Court.
2. Meet with Union County Sheriff.
3. Meet with City and County officers and employees.
4. Meet with any other person who can provide necessary input about the merger to date.

We are asking that the mayors and school superintendents of Elgin, Imbler and Summerville meet to select a representative of the North portion of Union County. We are looking for someone to serve on the committee who is open minded and not a current elected official.

The timeline for this task force is as follows:

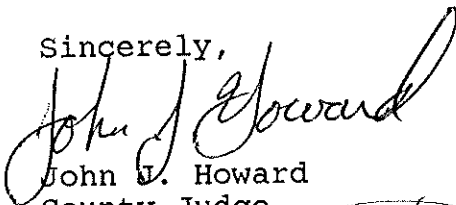
1. Selection of Task Force by August 5, 1987.
2. Task Force, La Grande City Council and County Court to meet the week of August 10, 1987.
3. First report from Task Force week of September 7th or no later than September 14.

Please discuss this appointment with the above mentioned group and provide a member name by August 5, 1987 to the Union County Court Office, 1100 L Avenue, La Grande. Enclosed is a mission statement and timeline for the Task

Force, which we ask that you give to the member upon selection.

If you have any questions, please call the County Court Office at 963-1001.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John J. Howard".

John J. Howard
County Judge

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Walter E. Fulton".

Walter E. Fulton, Mayor
City of La Grande

MP:sb

Enclosures

cc: Elgin School Superintendent

CITY OF ELGIN

P. O. BOX 128

ELGIN, OREGON 97827

PHONE 437-2253

August 14, 1987

TO: John Howard, County Judge
FROM: City of Elgin

SUBJECT: Task Force

In response to your letter of July 21, 1987 regarding a "task force" to review your recent law enforcement merger, the Elgin City Council discussed this proposal at length at the August 11, 1987 meeting. It is our decision to decline participation at this time, not because of a lack of concern, but for the following reasons:

1. It is the Council's feeling that your time frame was too tight to effectively find an informed representative.
2. We were not asked to participate in any discussion of the proposal prior to the merger and feel that now we are being asked to "rubber stamp" a plan which is already in place. Participation in such a study would appear to be a waste of time now.
3. One representative for the "North portion of Union County" would be difficult to select and an inadequate voice at best.
4. Finally, we take offense at the statement that you are looking for someone who is "open minded and not a current elected official". Why not an elected official and are we not considered "open-minded"?

Please be aware that our lack of participation should not be taken as approval of the merger plan. We very much resent that all planning to date has been done by the County Court and LaGrande City Council without input from any outlying communities. After all, we also represent County taxpayers and

feel we deserve to be kept informed of major changes affecting county citizens.

At this point we are unwilling to make a judgement on the merger situation. That judgement must be withheld until the taxpayers are given enough clear, factual information to develop informed opinions.

Sincerely, The Elgin City Council

Betty Hulse
City Recorder

cc
cb